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classical antiquity; we are simply putting ourselves on a level in point of taste with the Australians, Botocudos, and Negroes. We are taking fashion and nothing better, higher or truer, for our guide."

CATALOGUE OF THE BATRACHIA SALIENTIA OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM. SECOND EDITION.¹—This most recent of the series of catalogues of the collection in the British Museum will prove invaluable to batrachologists, who have long felt great need of such a condensation of their united labors. Since the issue of the first edition of this work, a great number of new forms have been discovered, and the British Museum collection has tripled in the number of specimens during the last twenty years. The classification followed is principally that of Cope—the Phaneroglossa are divided by their sternal characters into Firmisternia and Arcifera with their families, while the Aglossa are separated into the families Dactylethridæ and Pipidæ.

The Firmisternia include both the toothless and toothed forms with firmly united sternum, whilst the Arcifera are also made up of toothed and toothless forms, the presence or absence of teeth being considered subordinate to the characters drawn from the sternum. The group of Bufoniformia is thus not recognized. The families adopted are almost entirely those of Cope, with the exception that the Scaphiopidæ and Pelodytidæ are united with the Pelobatidæ. Two new families, the Dyscophidæ and Amphignathodontidæ are defined by Mr. Boulenger.

This is undoubtedly the best systematic work on the *Batrachia anura* yet published. We think the author, if a second edition is called for, will modify his work in the following respects: Firstly by the adoption of the genera characterized by the degree of ossification of the cranial bones. This will divide his *Hyla* into four genera, viz.: *Hyla*, *Scytotis*, *Osteocephalus* and *Trachycephalus*. It will introduce a number of genera of *Cystignathidæ*, and strengthen the definitions of those already adopted. There is no sound reason for neglecting these characters, as they are quite as constant as any of those adopted by Mr. Boulenger, such as the palmation of the fingers and toes, the parotoid glands, etc. Secondly, he will probably adopt as a genus that form of *Hylidæ* which has the pollex present and represented by a sharp spine, which has been named by Brocchi, *Plectrohyla*, but which is equivalent to Wagler's long prior *Hypsiboas*, which name was used for it by Cope, who first defined the genus.

MATERIAUX POUR L'HISTOIRE PRIMITIVE ET NATURELLE DE L'HOMME.—This anthropological journal, published at Toulouse, France, under the direction of M. Emile Cartailhac, has now

¹*Catalogue of a Batrachia Salientia, s. Ecaudata*, in the collection of the British Museum, Second Edition. By GEORGE ALBERT BOULENGER. London. Printed by order of the Trustees. 1882.

reached its sixteenth year. In it appear the discoveries made in various parts of western Europe, especially those of southern France, and among its list of contributors are the well known names of Mortillet, Saporta, Daubree, Perot, Ribeiro, and Desor. As an example of the ground covered by this monthly journal, the perusal of which is essential to every American anthropologist who truly intends to be in the forefront of the army of advance, some of the contents of the issue for November, 1881, are here given.

Historical Review of the Working of Metallic Mines in Gaul, A. Daubree; Grouping of the populations of America according to the termination of the names of the towns, Comte Regis de l'Estourbillon; Notice of some prehistoric stations and monuments of Portugal (twenty-two figures), Carlos Ribiero; Antique sepulchre of Ceretolo near Bologna, Italy, H. A. Hazard; Earlier numbers contain accounts of the existence of an age of bronze in southern Russia, especially in the Caucasus, and of some prehistoric necropoli of the Caucasus containing microcephalic crania, both by Ernest Chantre. Thirty-one engravings illustrate these articles.

KINGSLEY'S NATURALIST'S ASSISTANT.¹—Beginning with rather brief instructions for collecting and preserving mammals, birds, reptiles, batrachians and fishes, terse directions are then given as to the preparation of skeletons. The directions for collecting and preserving insects are good, but could in some respects be improved. In killing moths either in the net or when at rest either is very useful; both the insect-nets (Figs. 4 and 5) are drawn too shallow; the breeding cage (Fig. 11) does not seem to us to be very convenient, though very simple, and the door is made much too small. The section on dredging and marine collecting is well prepared, as is the second chapter on labeling and mounting specimens. Chapter third relates to the plans for a college museum and the arrangement of rooms and cases, and the suggestions are excellent; especially the suggestions for the arrangement of vials, which are so extensively used. It might have been added that as vials are apt to lose their alcohol, and the specimens consequently dry, they can be securely kept in large bottles filled with alcohol; otherwise they need to be filled once or twice a year. The chapter on the microscope is good, though brief, as is that on the laboratory; under the last head the author would have done well to have referred to aquaria in general, and the best mode of arranging series of small fresh-water and marine aquaria, such as every laboratory should be equipped with. The book closes with excellent directions for laboratory work, such as dissecting, injecting, section cutting, but no directions are given

¹ *The Naturalist's Assistant*. A Hand-book for the collector and student, with a Bibliography of fifteen hundred works necessary for the systematic zoölogist. By J. S. KINGSLEY, Boston, 1882. S. E. CASSINO. 12mo, pp. 228, \$1.50.